

Message Text

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S/PRE - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMANS PRESS BRIEFING FOR
JANUARY 8, 1976:

Q. WHAT IS THE US COMMENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM OF
SYRIA'S STATEMENT A COUPLE DAYS AGO THAT SYRIA WOULD ANNEX
LEBANON IN CASE OF PARTITION?

A. IN COMMENTING TO YOUR QUESTION, IF I MAY, I WOULD ALSO
INCLUDE STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS YESTERDAY ATTRIBUTED TO
THE ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER. MY RESPONSE IS TO BOTH
STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE MINISTERS OF BOTH SYRIA AND
ISRAEL.

WE HAVE NOTED THESE REPORTS COMING FROM BOTH SYRIAN AND
ISRAELI OFFICIALS. THE U.S. HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED ITS
SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON AS
EXPRESSED IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO THE PRIME

MINISTER OF LEBANON, RASHID KARAMI, THAT WAS DATED
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NOVEMBER 5TH.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN LEBANON, WE HAVE
MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED ANY OUTSIDE
INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS. THIS POSITION WAS MADE
KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA. OUR VIEW HAS NOT
CHANGED. NO COUNTRY SHOULD INTERVENE IN LEBANON. WE ARE
OPPOSED TO ANY OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN LEBANON BY ANY

COUNTRY, INCLUDING SYRIA AND ISRAEL.

Q. IS THERE ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION NOW IN LEBANON?

A. YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WHETHER THEY REGARD THERE HAS BEEN ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION. WHAT I AM ADDRESSING ARE COMMENTS -- AT LEAST IN THE PRESS -- ATTRIBUTED TO CABINET MINISTERS OF SYRIA AND ISRAEL -- AND THE POTENTIAL FOR FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

Q. SENATOR JACKSON CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE CUBAN TROOPS NOW IN SYRIA. HE SAYS THEY ARE THERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING INSTRUCTION IN THE OPERATION OF SOVIET TANKS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THIS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

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